PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for, by advertisement, for the erection of a new church at Tipton, Staffordshire; school rooms, and a new post-office, at Nottingham; an infirmary at Watford; an engine-house, boiler-house, tower, and other works at Clifton, for the Bristol water-works, with two reservoirs for same; cells for Lambeth workhouse; also for the completion of an institution at Dalston; for drainage and other works in Whitechapel; and various sewers in Westminster; for the execution of 8½ miles of the Glasgow, Airdrie, and Monklands Junction Railway; and the construction of the several stations on the Rugby and Stamford line; for 1200 tons of permanent rails for the London, Brighton, and South Coast line; for a supply of glass illuminators and tubes for the Admiralty; 800 tons of Guernsey lumps and 80 fathoms of deal ends for St. Luke's, Chelsea; Honduras mahogany, pine, oak, larch and other timber and plank for the Admiralty, for two years, and 100 tons tough cake copper for same.

THE IRON TRADE.—The strike in Lanarkshire, recently noticed in THE BUILDER, had of late, according to the *Edinburgh Witness*, been every day becoming more important to the iron trade. On Thursday, week before last, the whole of the blast furnaces at Dundyvan were stopped for want of material.—It has been at length admitted by one of the iron trade oracles, in allusion to a previous rather tardy hint of acknowledgment that all had not been exactly as was represented at the late quarterly meetings [of which meetings, it will be recollected, we some time since shewed pretty cogent reasons for steering rather clear in future], that, "although the price of Shropshire pigs had been well supported, it would be useless [now, we suppose he means,] to conceal the fact that the *difficulty of obtaining former rates for Staffordshire* yet remains;" but that "*in the rial trade* we have not heard of any further display of *failing confidence*."

FOREIGN ARCHÆOLOGICAL CONGRESS.—The historical and archæological section of the "Congrès Scientifique de France" will be held at Tours, from the 1st of September until the 11th. The various questions proposed to be discussed, many of them architectural, are given by Dr. Bromet in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for the current month. Amongst them are the following:—"Of what date are the painted windows of Tours cathedral; what subjects do they represent; who were their respective artists, and in what places were they executed? What effect had the form of arch employed during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries on the origin and general adoption of the pointed style of architecture? What is the comparative lateral thrust of pointed and of semi-circular arches? What are the properties of flying buttresses? Are they of any other use than as resistance to lateral pressure? In the painted glass of the thirteenth century had the hieratic forms then employed any analogy with the rules of heraldry?" Meetings of the French Archæological Society will likewise take place at Angoulême, on September 15th, 16th, and 17th, and at Limoges on the 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, to all which English travellers are specially invited, on the contribution of ten francs, entitling them also to the "Compte-Rendu" of the session.

IVY ON BUILDINGS.—Sir: Your last number had some extracted remarks on ivy and its effect on buildings. It is there stated that ivy keeps off the rain, and is a protection to the wall on which it climbs. Perhaps this is true up to a certain period, but, besides the indirect injury arising from the concealment of decay, it destroys directly, in two ways—1. It will entwine itself in the coping, which, by contraction in the length of its stem, it will pull over. The walls surrounding a castle three miles west of Bunbury are thus pulled over. 2. It will readily insinuate itself into a fissure, which it will widen, by horizontal expansion, to the overthrow of the masonry. In the north wall of the north transept of Calder Abbey, Cumberland, there is a stem of ivy 2 inches in diameter, now exposed to view, having thrust away the inside face for some 20 feet square. The gist of the argument in the extract from the *Gardeners' Chronicle* is, that because ivy is generally the concomitant of ruin, we must not therefore infer it is the cause. Nor must we; but at the same time we must not therefore infer that it is not the cause. WILCKEN.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—The railway, engineering, and building interest will fare very well in the new Parliament as compared with former Parliaments. Mr. Hudson again sits for Sunderland, and brings in a friend for York, to say nothing of his influence in assisting Mr. R. Stephenson, the engineer, to a seat for Whitby. Mr. Locke, the engineer of the "Grand Junction," is returned for Honiton; Mr. Peto, the builder and railway contractor, is in for Norwich; and Mr. Cubitt, for Andover; and Mr. Wyld, the mapseller in the Strand, has been returned for Bodmin. Mr. Chaplin, the chairman of the South-western Railway, is in for Salisbury; and though last, not least, Mr. Glyn, the chairman of the North-western, is member for Keodal. In this election "the battle of the guages" has gone against the broad gauge and in favour of the narrow, for while Hudson, Glyn, Chaplin, Locke, and Stephenson, all narrow guage men, are in, Mr. Russell, the chairman of the Great Western, has been defeated at Reading; and the engineer of that company, Mr. Brunel, who was talked of for Bristol, did not make his appearance.—*Morning Post.*

IMPORTATION OF ZINC.—Several very large importations of spelter or zinc have taken place within these few days, one vessel having brought 5,743 packages, another 10,232 plates, and others nearly 100 tons weight of this article, the production of Prussia. This zinc, or spelter, by both which names it is equally well known, is a metal of considerable hardness; and, although but little malleable, is easily made into plates, by passing it through the rollers of a mill adapted for the purpose; its colour is that of a bluish white; it oxidizes with difficulty, and lately has been much used in this country for various purposes, such as gutters for houses, vessels for containing water, pipes, and other articles; and more recently, also, for the manufacture of door-plates, in preference to brass and other material; it has also been drawn into a wire, for which a patent was obtained by the inventor in one of the towns of the north of England.—*Sheffield Iris.*

ART-UNION OF LONDON EXHIBITION.—The exhibition of the works of art selected by the prizeholders, will be opened to the members and their friends on Monday next, in the Suffolk-street Gallery, with the exception of some few chosen from Westminster Hall, which will not be obtainable till the end of the present month or beginning of the next. The exhibition will also comprise Mr. Selon's picture, "Queen Philippa interceding for the Burgesses of Calais," painted from the cartoon for which the Art-Union awarded their 500*l.* prize. Mr. Lauder's prize picture, "Wisdom;" at Westminster Hall, is amongst the selections.

COMPETITIONS.—Plans, with specifications and estimates, by architects, have been called for by advertisement for the erection of a new borough prison at Plymouth, with premiums of 30*l.* and 20*l.* for second and third plans selected.—Designs are also wanted for a workhouse to accommodate 1,000 paupers of the City of London Union, the architect of the first selected to carry out his own design, and the second and third to receive premiums of 100*l.* and 50*l.*—Plans and estimates also are wanted from architects for the Worcester County Lunatic Asylum, to be built of best hard brick in a simple style; premiums of 50*l.*, 30*l.*, and 20*l.* for the three first selected designs.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Restoration of Openings in Party Wall*."—Case being still sub judice, papers are not open to us.

"P. S."—The article "Architecture," in "Encyclopædia Metropolitana," was written by Mr. J. Narrien, A.M. It is not separately sold.

"*Architectural Student*."—Apply to the Director at Somerset House.

"Z. Y. X."—The shadow being thus put in serves to shew the actual projection of the parts.

"*Reader from the Beginning*."—In measuring folding rules the rebate must be added to the width. The joining should have re-headed joints, and to this case also, the rebate added. The double joint in buildings is always added.

"*Architect's Assistant*."—The number of applications constantly made to men of station by parties quite unknown to them, offers some excuse for non-acknowledgement.

"J. H. J."—Examination—Next week.

"Reserve."—"M. W." (Lambeth), "E. C." "Observer," "Y. N." "Young Builder," "J. B." (York).

Books.—"Architectural Sketches on the Continent," drawn and etched by George Truefitt, Architect; London, Masters, Aldersgate-street; Exeter, Wallis. "Report of the Commissioners on Harbours of Refuge." "Churches of Warwickshire," No. VIII.; Warwick, Cooke; London, Rivington. "The Ruins Question." Fox, Peterborough.

"*Books, Prices, and Addresses*."—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

Erratum.—In the notice of Mr. Rogers's paper on "Limoges Enamels" (p. 367), it was erroneously made to appear that Leonardo da Vinci practised the art of enamelling. It was an artist of the same christian name, who afterwards received the title "Limousin," to distinguish him from the other celebrated Leonardo.

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